

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11588 251741Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15
SOE-02 EB-08 /130 W
-----050718 251933Z /64

R 251733Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8397
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG RH
SUBJECT: NKOMO VISITS CAIRO

SUMMARY: PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER NKOMO MADE SWIFT 24
HOUR VISIT TO CAIRO APRIL 24-25, MET WITH MINSTATE
BOUTROS GHALI, MFA OFFICIALS AND HELD COMBINED PRESS
CONFERENCE/MEETING WITH DIPLOMATS. GOE EXPRESSED
SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT AND OPPOSITION TO INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT, WHILE NKOMO PRAISED "USEFUL DISCUSSIONS"
WITH GOE. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE NKOMO HAD HARSH
WORDS FOR UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, BUT USG ESCAPED
MOST OF CRITICISM. END SUMMARY.

1. PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO VISITED
CAIRO APRIL 24-25, AS OPENING OF TOUR OF ARAB STATES.
NKOMO MET AFTERNOON APRIL 24 MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11588 251741Z

BOUTROS GHALI AND HELD HASTILY ORGANIZED COMBINATION
PRESS CONFERENCE AND MEETING WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS
MORNING OF APRIL 25. NKOMO ALSO HAD SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSIONS MFA AFRICA DIRECTOR AHMED SIDQI. ALTHOUGH
CAIRO TV APRIL 24 CARRIED NKOMO/GHALI MEETING, APRIL 25
DAILIES VIRTUALLY IGNORED DISCUSSIONS. TV COVERAGE
HIGHLIGHTED GHALI COMMENT THAT GOE FIRMLY IN SUPPORT

OF PATRIOTIC FRONT AND DID NOT SUPPORT ZIMBABWE INTERNAL SOLUTION.

2. IN REMARKS AT PRESS CONFERENCE, NKOMO COMMENTED THAT HE AND ZAPU SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS "HAD HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION" WITH GOE. NKOMO PRAISED "WARM WELCOME AND SUPPORT" AFFORDED PATRIOTIC FRONT IN EGYPT, THEN LAUNCHED INTO LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT OPPOSITION TO INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, NKOMO OPINED THAT, IN VIEW OF DEADLOCK CAUSED BY FAILURE OF UK TO CONVENE CONFERENCE OF ALL ZIMBABWE PARTIES, PATRIOTIC FRONT MIGHT WELL TAKE ISSUE BACK TO UNSC. "BRITISH ARE DILLY-DALLYING" AND UNLIKELY TO PUSH HARD FOR CONFERENCE UNTIL IT CLEAR WHETHER INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL STICK. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT POSSIBLE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ZIMBABWE, NKOMO RETORTED "WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ASK ME ABOUT CUBANS I THOUGHT THAT BEING IN CAIRO I WOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID ETERNAL QUESTIONS ON CUBANS, WHO IN ANY EVENT NOT INVOLVED IN ZIMBABWE." NKOMO NOTED THAT "PROGRESSIVE FORCES ARE SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT" BUT THERE WOULD BE NO OUTSIDE FORCES INVOLVED IN FIGHTING. "WE HAVE NO MERCENARIES FIGHTING WITH US. WE HAVE FRIENDS WHO HELP WITH EQUIPMENT BUT OUR MANPOWER IS 100 PERCENT ZIMBABWEAN." WHEN QUERIED CONCERNING DEGREE OF EGYPTIAN MATERIAL AID TO FRONT, NKOMO SAID PRESS SHOULD DIRECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 11588 251741Z

QUESTION TO MFA DIRECTOR SIDQI, ALTHOUGH GOE HAD BEEN VERY GENEROUS WITH AID TO AFRICAN LIBERATION GROUPS SINCE 1959.

3. PRESS/DIPLOMATIC MEETING APRIL 25 HEAVILY ATTENDED BY SOVIET BLOC, AAPSO, AND AFRICAN OFFICIALS. NKOMO GAVE ROUGH TREATMENT TO UK FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN. USG ESCAPED BULK OF NKOMO CRITICISM. NEAR END OF HIS REMARKS, NKOMO WOUND HIMSELF UP INTO DENUNCIATION OF "IMPERIALIST POWERS' PLAN TO INSTALL PUPPET GOVERNMENTS IN ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA" IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN ENTRENCHED ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. NKOMO HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT ARAB RELATIONS WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT OTHER THAN TO NOTE THAT ARAB STATES MIGHT USE A BIT OF THEIR OIL PROCEEDS TO FURTHER LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE. NKOMO REFUSED TO TELL REUTERS CORRESPONDENT WHERE HE HEADED ON NEXT LEG OF HIS ARAB JAUNT. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780421/aaaaarkn.tel
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: NKOMO VISITS CAIRO SUMMARY: PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER NKOMO MADE SWIFT 24 HOUR VISIT TO CAIRO APRIL 24-25, MET WITH MINSTATE
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, EG, RH, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
To: STATE
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